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MAE News: Newsletter from the Office of Monitoring, Audit and Enforcement, Summer 2008

Maine Workers' Compensation Board

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Recommended Citation
Maine Workers' Compensation Board, "MAE News: Newsletter from the Office of Monitoring, Audit and Enforcement, Summer 2008" (2008). *Workers' Compensation Board Documents.* Paper 30.
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MAE News

Newsletter from the Office of Monitoring, Audit and Enforcement
Maine Workers' Compensation Board

Summer 2008 **Volume 4, Number 2**

Paul R. Dionne
Executive Director/Chair

Steven P. Minkowsky
Deputy Director of
Benefits Administration

Office of Monitoring,
Audit and Enforcement

Maine Workers'
Compensation Board

27 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Contacts:

Kimberlee Barriere
Audit Manager
(207) 287-7031

E-mail
Kimberlee.Barriere@Maine.Gov

Jeffery Levesque
Monitoring Manager
(207) 287-7090

E-mail
Jeffrey.Levesque@Maine.Gov

Anne Poulin
Secretary Associate
(207) 287-7067

E-mail
Anne.Poulin@Maine.Gov

Website:

www.maine.gov/wcb/

ALERT: DO NOT Use Leading "1" in Telephone Numbers on Workers' Compensation Board Forms

Many claim administrators are using eleven-digit phone numbers (i.e.: 1-800- XXX-XXXX) on MWCB forms. EDI only allows 10 characters for phone numbers; therefore, the last digit of each eleven-digit phone number is being cut off. This makes it very difficult for the Board's Troubleshooters and other Dispute Resolution staff to contact injured employees, claim adjusters, etc.

Sign Up Now for our Fall Training Sessions!!!

Open Training Sessions have been scheduled in our Portland Regional Office this fall. The dates are October 9, 2008 for the Basic Compliance Session and October 10, 2008 for the Advanced Compliance Session. If you are interested in attending one or both sessions, please contact Anne Poulin at (207) 287-7067 or at Anne.Poulin@Maine.Gov.

New Instructions Available for Completing the Statement of Compensation Paid (WCB-11)

The Forms and Petitions Manual has been updated to include new instructions for completing the WCB-11 form.

A review of audit data has revealed that the WCB-11 can be a confusing form for many claim administrators. These new instructions are intended to assist claim administrators in completing this form correctly.

The new instructions are available at:
www.maine.gov/wcb/departments/mae/formsmanual/cover.html

Bi-Weekly TPD Calculator

Did you know that the Board's website now offers a Bi-Weekly TPD Calculator? It was designed to assist those of you who struggle with making your indemnity payments weekly when you're working with bi-weekly payrolls.

This tool is available at:
www.maine.gov/wcb/departments/mae/marlenestpd/index.html

If you have questions, comments or concerns regarding this tool, please contact: Marlene.Swift@Maine.Gov

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Claims at "Max"

While there are no cost-of-living adjustments for post **12-31-92** dates of injury, claims being paid at the maximum weekly benefit level (maximum rate) are subject to an inflation adjustment or escalation on or about **7-1** of each year.

The Board is tracking claims subject to the maximum rate to ensure that injured employees are being paid at the correct rate and to ensure that WCB-4 forms are filed to document any changes in the weekly compensation rate.

Information regarding annual cost-of-living adjustments (pre 1-1-1993 dates of injury) and inflation adjustments (post 12-31-92 dates of injury) can be found on the Board's website at:

www.maine.gov/wcb/departments/payments/sawwmax.htm

Reminder: failure to pay accrued weekly benefits within 30 days after becoming due and payable is subject to penalty under Section 205(3).

Do Your Compliance Percentages Look Low this Quarter?

A little checking may go a long way to improving your compliance. Remember that the second quarter of 2008 had a State holiday (Patriots Day) on Monday, April 21 even though this may have been a work day for you. Also, mail did not move on Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day). Unless you sent your MOPs electronically (the fax machine is always on and the server date stamps e-mail even when no one is here), these holidays may have adversely affected your compliance scores for this form.

If your MOP compliance scores were adversely affected by one or both of these holidays, please note that you can submit a rebuttal along with your reconciliation report response.

Sign Up for the Workers' Compensation Board "Listserve"

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Would you like to be kept up to date with accurate information on issues and events concerning the Board? You can receive up-to-date information, updates and important information from the Board as soon as it becomes available.

Join the MWCB ListServe!

To subscribe to MWCB ListServe, send an e-mail to: wcb-request@lists.maine.gov with "Subscribe" in the body of the message. No subject is necessary.